Drugs for Athletes

*486. SHRIRAJU PARMAR: SHRIBHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister ofHEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of drug stores/ chemists stock a number of performance enhancing drugs for athletes;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which have been reported, so far; and

(c) the action taken against the drug stores/chemists?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, drug stores and chemists are allowed to stock and undertake sale of only those drugs that are approved for manufacture and/or sale in the country. Drugs are approved for sale taking into account their quality, safety, efficacy and rationality. Some of the drugs including amphetamines, narcotic analgesics, anabolic steroids, stimulant drugs, diuretics etc., which are used for the treatment of various medical conditions are also reported to be used by sports persons to enhance their performance, although this practice is prohibited by national and international sporting bodies. Almost all these are listed in Schedule X and Schedule H of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 and such drugs can only be purchased against prescription from Registered Medical Practitioners. Hence there are no specific drugs which are stocked by chemists and drug stores that fall under the category of performance enhancing drugs for athletes.

No specific complaint has been received by the Drug Controller (India) about stocking and selling of any drug specifically for the purpose of enhancing the performance of sports persons.

State Drug Controllers have been advised to keep a watch on the sale of such performance enhancing drugs, details of which have been obtained from the Sports Authority of India, and to report any violations noted regarding their sales without prescriptions.

Irregularities in Implementation of RCH Programme

† *487. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many cases of irregularities in the implementation of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Project have come to light;

(b) whether Government have conducted a high level inquiry in the episode and if not, the reasons therefor;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether most of the people are not aware of the benefits of the scheme leading to misuse by the officials; and

(d) whether Government are formulating any action plan for propagation of this scheme in the public?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme has been under implementation in all States of the country since March, 1998. Only a few cases of financial irregularities and misuse of RCH funds have come to the notice of Government. These cases and action taken thereupon are detailed as below :

(1) A complaint of irregularities in the purchase of medical equipment and drugs etc. under the RCH sub project, Sangrur, Punjab was received in January, 2000 wherein allegation of non-observance of the proper procedures was made against the sub project authorities.' The matter was referred to the State Government. The State Government cancelled the supply orders and no payments were released. It also started an inquiry into the matter. The said inquiry report has been received from the State Government in July, 2001. As the report has not comprehensively dealt with all the allegations referred by Government of India, the State Government has been advised to look into all aspects of the matter and send a detailed report. The matter is reportedly under investigation by the State Vigilance Bureau.

(2) A case of financial irregularities has been registered in October, 2000 by the Central Bureau of Investigation against some officials of the Rajasthan Government and certain firms in connection with matters relating to implementation of Reproductive and Child Health Programme and Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme. The investigation is still in progress.

(3) A shortage of cash aggregating Rs.50,607/- was detected during audit of the RCH Programme during 1999-2000 in Bhiwani district of Haryana. Full recovery of the missing cash from the concerned persons has been reported by the State Government.

(4) Cases registered against some Non-Government Organisations (NGO) and action taken thereon are given in the statement. *(See* below)

(c) and (d) Government of India has made wide publicity of the RCH schemes. Following measures have been taken in this regard :

(1) Posters in Hindi, English and other languages have been brought out listing the services available under the RCH Programme and distributed to all the facilities down to the sub-centre level.

(2) A Newsletter namely RCH Samachar is brought out in Hindi, Assamese, Oriya and English every quarter..

(3) The Department of Family Welfare has published booklets and books etc. from time to time for awareness of the general public.

(4) The NGO projects of the Department are geared mainly towards awareness generation and advocacy on RCH issues. 412 districts have been covered through 97 Mother NGOs and about 1000 grass-root level NGOs.

(5) An Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign has been conducted through Zilla Saksharta Samitis on RCH issued in 227 districts.

(6) Video and audio spots are aired through Doordarshan and All India Radio. Two informative entertainment programmes on RCH issues namely 'LOK JHANKAR'—a folk music based programme and 'SANKALP'—a radio drama in 13 languages are broadcast weekly through Vividh Bharti and other channels.

(7) Media Units of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have been pressed into service for organising exhibitions and other publicity/ awareness generation activities on RCH.

(8) Awareness generation training-cum-sensitization programme has been undertaken for grass root functionaries of different Government Department such as Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, Anganwari Workers etc. and Panchayat Raj Functionaries besides others. In all, over 4 lakh persons have been so sensitized.

(9) Health and Family Welfare Melas have been organised at various places such as Mathura, Kargil, Patna, Lucknow. RCH Camps are being organized in 1020 P.H.C.s spread over 102 selected districts of the country. The Camps and Melas have a strong component of education and awareness generation on RCH services being made available. Such Melas are also being planned during the current year.

(10) Activity specific IEC such as for pulse polio immunisation, non-scalpel vasectomy etc. are also conducted as appropriate.

(11) Intensive IEC activities has been initiated through a new scheme in 7 States in accordance with the new National Communication Strategy.

(12) The annual plan of activities for family welfare including RCH are drawn up following a consultative process with the community. Involvement of community in formulation of action plan serves to raise awareness of the community on aforesaid services.

(13) Village based groups of women have been formed for community education and mobilization in family welfare issues. There are 80,588 such groups known as Mahila Swasthya Sangh, being assisted by Government of India.

The publicity and awareness generation activities are reviewed from time to time to improve its effectiveness.

Statement

Name of NGOs against whom cases have been registered and the action taken thereon

s No	. Name of NGO	Scheme, Amount &Year	Allegation	Action Taken
1	, Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Bharatpur, Rajasthan	Mother NGO Scheme, Rs. 15,00,000(1998) Only Rs. 5,45,230 was released after adjusting unspent amount of Rs. 9,54,770 released earlier under the Mothei Unit Scheme	Fraudulent filing of re-ports with Government oflndia	Steps initiated to recover the amount of Rs. 15.00 lakhs from the NGO with the assistance of the State Government
2.	Indian Association of Women and Child Research, Lucknow	Mother NGO Scheme. Rs. 15.00 Lakhs (1999)	Misuse of funds	NGO has been blacklist-ed after irregularities were found in expenditure statement. It has filed writ in High Court, Lucknow Bench. Matter is sub-judice.
3.	Revanasid-dheswar Prasanna Education Trust Bidai	Mother NGO Scheme Rs. 4.00 Lakhs (1999)	Improper disburse-ment of funds to Field NGOs	Blacklisted.